

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

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LLOYD HOPKINS,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 23-cv-0354-bhl

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Defendant.

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**SCREENING ORDER**

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On March 2, 2023, Plaintiff Lloyd Hopkins filed a small claims action against the United States in Racine County Circuit Court. (ECF No. 1-3 at 1.) Two weeks later, the United States removed the action to this Court. (ECF No. 1.) Because the action is frivolous, it will be dismissed.

“District judges have ample authority to dismiss frivolous or transparently defective suits spontaneously, and thus save everyone time and legal expense.” *Hoskins v. Poelstra*, 320 F.3d 761, 763 (7th Cir. 2003). A suit is frivolous when the plaintiff “can make no rational argument in law or facts to support his . . . claim for relief.” *Williams v. Faulkner*, 837 F.2d 304, 306 (7th Cir. 1988) (quoting *Jones v. Morris*, 777 F.2d 1277, 1279-80 (7th Cir. 1985)). Rational arguments in support of a claim for relief are impossible where “the plaintiff’s allegations are so ‘fanciful,’ ‘fantastic,’ and ‘delusional’ as to be ‘wholly incredible.’” *Bussie v. Attorney General*, 2013 WL 3934179, at \*2 (W.D. Wis. July 30, 2013) (quoting *Denton v. Hernandez*, 504 U.S. 25, 32-33 (1992)). While *pro se* pleadings are held to less stringent standards than those drafted by lawyers, *Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972), not even excessively liberal construction rescues frivolous *pro se* complaints. See *Denton*, 504 U.S. at 33.

Hopkins’ complaint alleges “Treason!!!” apparently based on Milwaukee County’s efforts to collect a \$200 debt from him. (ECF No. 1-3 at 2, 6.) This is not the first time he has curtly accused the government of malfeasance. (See 23-cv-0008-bhl, ECF No. 1-1 at 2 (alleging “Treason & Alluding”); 21-cv-0884-WCG, ECF No. 1-2 at 2 (Complaint against the Social Security Administration reading: “You guys lied to me to”).) This Court dismissed Hopkins’

previous cases for failure to state a claim. (23-cv-0008-bhl, ECF No. 3; 21-cv-0884-WCG, ECF No. 3.) His latest effort fares no better. Accordingly, the Court will dismiss this case.

Normally, courts should afford *pro se* plaintiffs leave to amend their defective complaints. *See Felton v. City of Chicago*, 827 F.3d 632, 636 (7th Cir. 2016). But this is only necessary when “frivolous factual allegations could be remedied through more specific pleading” or where the absence of sufficient facts in the complaint is due to the unskilled nature of the *pro se* plaintiff. *Alston v. DeBruyn*, 13 F.3d 1036, 1039 (7th Cir. 1994) (citations omitted). Hopkins is a serial filer whose back catalog of complaints is marked by frivolousness. (See 23-cv-0008-bhl, ECF No. 1-1; 21-cv-0884-WCG, ECF No. 1-2; 22-cv-0971-bhl, ECF No. 1-2; 22-cv-0972-bhl, ECF No. 1-2; 22-cv-1429-bhl, ECF No. 1-1.) Allowing him leave to amend would prove futile—no amount of additional pleading would substantiate a claim of treason against the United States. *See Runnion ex rel. Runnion v. Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana*, 786 F.3d 510, 522 (7th Cir. 2015) (recognizing that district courts may deny leave to amend when any amended would be futile). Dismissal will therefore be with prejudice.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Hopkins’ complaint is **DISMISSED** with prejudice. The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment accordingly.

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin on March 21, 2023.

s/ Brett H. Ludwig  
BRETT H. LUDWIG  
United States District Judge